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STEP UP AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIVIZATION;  
INDEPENDENT GROWERS FORM PRODUCERS' GROUPS

MORE MIDDLE PEASANTS JOIN COOPERATIVES -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 11, 13 - 16 Feb 51

The agricultural collectivization drive which started a few weeks ago made a spurt during the past week and over the week end. The landslide began when producers' cooperatives in Szolnok County and the area east of the Tisza River began to grow in size and number and the first completely socialized communities and cities came into existence. Now the complete socialization movement is spreading across the country.

During the week of 5-10 February, 1,820 families, (2,121 working peasants, including 795 middle peasants) joined 25 existing and new cooperative groups at Karcag, raising the total collectivized land from 9,735 to 21,857 cadastral yokes, one third of Karcag's farm land. By 14 February, 79.9 percent of the land and 80.8 percent of the peasants belonged to socialized groups.

In January 1951, the Turkeve party organ decided to revise its agitation methods. At the enrollment centers, city maps were substituted for lists of names of peasants not belonging to collective groups. People's educators were dispatched in pairs by party organs and cooperative group leaders, to gather signatures for cooperatives. Communist Party members were enrolled first, allowing them to set the pattern for the rest of the community. At Abony, five members of the Community Council joined a new cooperative, and the same day 116 families followed their example. Enrolling representatives also spent more time with the peasants in their interviews. As a result, 96 percent of the working peasants, 3,461 families, including 1,015 middle peasants, with a total of 21,351 of the 22,000 cadastral yokes, were collectivized at Turkeve by 12 February, and by 13 February only 25 peasants remained independent.

The new producers' cooperative at Hercegfalva was started in mid-December with the formation of the organizing (elokeszito) committee, composed of working peasants. The community council president, the machine station director, and the party secretary presented details of the functions of Types I, II and III cooperatives, but these officials have no decision in the founding of the group.

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During the 2 weeks' discussion which followed, it was explained to independent peasants who claimed that they could earn a better living without joining the group, that members average 4,000-5,000 forints /per month/, and that several members of a family may earn productive incomes. Eighty peasants then signed to form a Type I cooperative.

There are 37 organizing committees, consisting of 175 families, in operation in Szolnok County, and 59 organizing committees in Baranya County, composed of 480 families with 4,483 cadastral yokes. Five new cooperatives were formed in Baranya County during the week.

By 12 February, the community of Mezocsat in Borsod County was completely collectivized. Ecsegfalva was the first completely collectivized community in Bekes County.

The socialization movement is not up to par in Csongrad County. In one week, 42 families joined cooperatives at Szoreg, but in many other places in the county there was no significant development.

GIVES ADVANTAGES OF COOPERATIVES -- Budapest, Friss Ujsag, 15, 16 Feb 51

A movement for the complete collectivization of agriculture is under way. On 14 February, in addition to 250 peoples' educators gathering signatures, 350 members of cooperatives in Turkeve descended on Kisujszallas to urge enrollment in producers' cooperatives.

Some advantages of joining cooperatives are: new members of Type III groups receive a cash advance of one half the value of their livestock, members of Type I groups enjoy a 20-percent income tax reduction, holders of 10-15 cadastral yokes receive a 30-percent reduction [in service fees] from machine stations, and new members of cooperatives may receive 1,500 forints from the state for buying cows and 300 forints for buying sows. Hesitant independent farmers are told of the peasant who, together with two others, earned 22,500 forints in a cooperative last year.

During the past week, 153 new producers' cooperatives were formed, including 16 in Bacs-Kiskun County, 14 in Bekes County, 18 in Borsod County, 10 in Szabolcs County, 8 in Vas County, and 31 in Szolnok County.

By 15 February, all but 15 peasants had joined cooperatives in Turkeve. Those remaining independent were mostly small holders, with only 2-3 cadastral yokes. Turkeve may be called a socialized community.

COUNTIES INCREASE COLLECTIVIZED AREA -- Budapest, Nepszava, 11, 15, 16 Feb 51

During the past week the number of producers' cooperatives in Borsod County increased from 176 to 195, the number of members from 8,443 to 9,336, including 827 middle peasants, and the total collectivized farm land from 51,246 to 54,584 cadastral yokes. The socialized sector in Szabolcs County increased by 409 families (700 members) and 1,647 cadastral yokes, and ten new groups were formed. In Bekes County, 14 new groups were formed with 688 new members, including 83 middle peasants. Most of the members of a Type I group formed in Zala County are middle peasants.

A new member of a cooperative explained that independent farmers may suffer heavily through damage to crops by hailstorms, etc. The crops of cooperative members are insured. Many middle peasants are joining the groups now being formed. Immediately after enrollment, the new members take up recruitment work.

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INDEPENDENT VEGETABLE CULTIVATORS FORM GROUP -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 8 Feb 51

Independent vegetable growers at Demecser have formed a producers' group similar to that of the viticulturalists, under the Local Soil Cultivation Association. The vegetable growers want to form the group to: insure a supply of good-quality seed, take advantage of the light machinery of the machine stations, learn better cultivation methods, increase their crop yield, form a committee representing the growers' interests, provide protection from crop damage, and, through the Local Soil Cultivation Association, provide for the planned harvest, storage and sale of crops.

ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TOBACCO GROWERS FORMED -- Budapest, Friss Ujsag, 10 Feb 51

Independent tobacco cultivators of Fadd have been granted permission by the National Association of Cooperatives to form a tobacco growers' group, based on the pattern of the viticultural groups, under the Local Soil Cultivation Association. The tobacco growers wish to band together to avoid having to buy plants from kulaks when their own plants have been damaged or frozen, to standardize classification of tobacco for market, to facilitate crop insurance, and to benefit by the exchange of improved methods of cultivation. After receiving many similar requests, the National Association of Cooperatives called for the formation of similar groups among vegetable, fruit, onion, and spice pepper growers.

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